EQUAL RIGHTS

"MEN AND WOMEN SHALL HAVE EQUAL RIGHTS THROUGHOUT THE UNITED STATES AND EVERY PLACE SUBJECT TO ITS JURISDICTION"

Amendment to the United States Constitution now before Congress.

AUG 17 1937

"And So The Bill Was Passed"

By EDWINA AUSTIN AVERY

Chairman Government Workers' Council, National Woman's Party

Business and Professional Women for Equal Rights Amendment

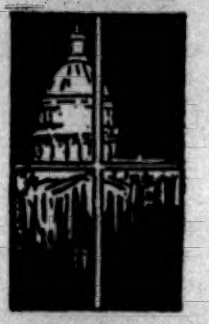
August 1, 1937

NATIONAL WOMAN'S PARTY

Washington, D. C.

Vol. 23, No. 14 Price Five Cents

Equal Rights



Official Organ
of the
NATIONAL WOMAN'S PARTY
Capitol Hill Washington, D. C.
Phone, Atlantic 1210
Published Semi-Monthly at
144 B Street, N. E., Washington, D. C.
and Printed at
406 W. Redwood Street, Baltimore, Md.
Entered as second-class matter at the post-office at Washington, D. C., under the Act of March 3, 1879.
Subscription, $1.00 a Year
Foreign Subscription, $1.50

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NATIONAL WOMAN'S PARTY

OBJECT

To secure for women complete equality with men under the law and in all human relationships—in particular to secure the adoption of the Equal Rights Amendment to the Constitution, and the adherence of the United States to the Equal Rights Treaty. The Woman's Party also supports the proposed Equality Amendments to the Covenant of the League of Nations.

THE PROPOSED EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT

"Art. 1—Men and women shall have Equal Rights throughout the United States and every place subject to its jurisdiction.

"Art. 2—Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation."

Introduced

Senate—By Senator Townsend, (Del.), and Senator Burke, (Neb.), Feb. 5, 1937, (Senate Joint Resolution No. 65).

House—By Representative Ludlow, (Ind.), Jan. 5, 1937, (House Joint Resolution No. 1).

Present Status

Senate—Before Judiciary Committee; acted upon favorably by sub-judiciary committee June 23, 1937.

House—Before Judiciary Committee; acted upon favorably by sub-judiciary committee June 16, 1937.

THE EQUAL RIGHTS TREATY

"Art. 1—The contracting States agree that upon the ratification of this Treaty men and women shall have Equal Rights throughout the territory subject to their respective jurisdictions."

Signed

By Cuba, Ecuador, Paraguay, and Uruguay, at Montevideo, December, 1933.

PROPOSED EQUALITY AMENDMENTS TO COVENANT OF LEAGUE OF NATIONS

"The members of the League undertake that in their respective countries the right to vote shall not be denied or abridged on the ground of sex."

"The members of the League undertake that in their respective countries there shall be no distinction based on sex in their law and practice regarding nationality."

"The members of the League undertake that in their respective countries men and women shall have equal rights in all other fields."

"The members of the League undertake that there shall be both men and women, with full voting powers, in all delegations to the Council and Assembly of the League and to all Conferences under the auspices of the League."

Present Status

On agenda of the September, 1937, Assembly of the League of Nations.

The March of Women

IN THE face of a world trend to return women to their status of subjection in medieval days, women are on the march. They are rising up in righteous wrath and indignation against attempts to reduce them to a condition of servitude under the law.

The spontaneous revolt of the National Association of Business and Professional Women in Convention in Atlantic City against protective laws applying to women only, should bring comfort to those who have felt that possibly women were unaware of the dangers confronting them at home and abroad.

Eleven national organizations of women and considerably more than one hundred state and local organizations are now enlisted in the campaign for the Equal Rights Amendment to the Constitution.

It would appear that the traditional worm has turned and that women armed with the ballot have every intention of protecting themselves with a Constitutional guarantee such as men have.

Necessity for securing this guarantee of their freedom to compete for a living on the same terms as men, and to function as adult persons rather than a restricted class under an undesirable brand of guardianship, is responsible for this revolution.

Women won political equality. They are now determined to complete equality with men by placing in the Constitution of the United States the Equal Rights Amendment. They will not fail!

They are prepared, if necessary, to carry their fight into the elections. The sentiment for equality which has been smoldering throughout the land is bursting forth into a conflagration that cannot be extinguished. Women are on the march!

To Amelia Earhart

WOMEN the world over are at a loss for words in speaking of Amelia Earhart. Unwilling to relinquish hope for her return, they are torn with anguish over the fruitless search since the last radio message. Their hearts are saddened.

Amelia Earhart possessed the dauntless spirit of the pioneer, the love of adventure of the explorer, and the fearlessness that made it impossible to see [redacted] danger when reaching for a goal.

A true feminist, she never lost an opportunity to work for the advancement of women to a position of equality with men. She asked no privileges, but only for equal rights and equal responsibilities. The fact that the route she took was over an uncharted course intrigued her, not as a feat, but because it was blazing a trail. Amelia Earhart may not have completed her flight, but she *succeeded* in blazing the trail. The route will be charted, the section has for the first time been explored. Amelia Earhart has made a contribution of inestimable value to her country.

Those who knew her best loved her for herself—her unselfishness, her graciousness and modesty despite the homage of the world for her achievements. Intelligent, courageous and true, Amelia Earhart in the thirty-nine years of her life gave to the world something few have given. She was a great pioneer in aviation. She was a valued member of the National Woman's Party and her friends still hope that she will again appear from out of the azure blue into which she lifted the nose of her flying laboratory when she confidently set sail on her globe-encircling flight.

The tribute we pay is not to a lost aviator, but to Ameria Earhart—wherever she is.

"And So The Bill Was Passed"

By Edwina Austin Avery
Chairman of Government Workers' Council, National Woman's Party

THURSDAY, July 8, 1937, dawned clear and hot. In the House of Representatives, the Congress of the United States, the first order of business was the consideration of House Resolution 260:

Resolved, That upon the adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to move that the House resolve itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the consideration of the H. R. 3408, a bill to amend the Civil Service Act approved January 16, 1883 (22 Stat. 403), and for other purposes. That after general debate, which shall be confined to the bill and shall continue not to exceed 1 hour, to be equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on the Civil Service, the bill shall be read for amendment under the 5-minute rule. At the conclusion of the reading of the bill for amendment the Committee shall rise and report the same to the House with such amendments as may have been adopted, and the previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and amendments thereto to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommit, with or without instructions.

Most of the executive committee of the Government Workers' Council had met in the House restaurant for lunch and last minute discussion. It had been impossible for the writer to join them there, and so arriving at the House gallery a little ahead of others she walked over to one of the windows and for a few minutes welcomed the thoughts and memories which came tumbling over one another into her heart and mind of the crowded days of the past five years; the work which had filled them; of the people who had helped and who stood out, silhouetted clearly against the background of crowding events; of plans made and perfected or set aside for others; of despair, of discouragement and delay, but always with the hope eternally renewed because of the rightness of the cause.

First on the screen of her memory flashed the picture of Muna Lee, seated that day in April, 1932, at the lovely big table in the little downstairs office at Alva Belmont House, as she had looked up in response to the tempestuous entrance of the writer and Helen Forbes and their "We're two of these working married women that the House of Representatives, during yesterday's session, said couldn't work any more. Just what are you going to do about it?" Clearly, as though they were even then being spoken again, the words uttered by that quiet voice came down memories lane, "What are *you* going to do about it?"

This morning as the writer stood on the threshold of achievement, her part in it all seemed woefully small as compared with all those others who had contributed so much to make this day possible. Muna Lee—yes—for hers had been the spark that lighted the flame; hers, too, the ever helpful word of encouragement or advice so necessary in the months which followed.

Maude Bradbury, sweet, lovable, fired with a righteous will to right all wrongs besetting women; whose gentle guidance was so helpful to inexperience, and through whose inspiration Maude Younger was interested.

And what of Maude Younger, whose masterful leadership had meant so much through those stormy days of 1932 and 1933? Keen, resourceful, quick to see and make her own the slightest slip of her opponent, yet ever the cultured, gracious gentlewoman; of whom the now Assistant Secretary of Labor, Edward F. McGrady, said, "She is the best lobbyist on Capital Hill and the truest friend." Surely Life, to which she had always given such a gay and gallant challenge would see to it that on this particular day Maude Younger would again move through the Halls of Congress; that again she would be at our side, guiding, counseling, despairing or rejoicing with us, her face lighted up with an inner radiance and the glory of her beautiful red hair making a halo for it.

Faces flashed on and off memories' screen: Elsie Hill, Iris Calderhead Walker; Laura Berrien, who had spent hours helping in perfecting our Government Workers' Council; Burnita Matthews, who had tried a test case; Anna Kelton Wiley and Florence Bayard Hilles, who had spoken from one end of the country to the other against the rising tide of feeling that women should not be gainfully employed, and whose encouragement and helpful advice had meant so much; Anita Pollitzer, who had helped when ill health had forced Maude Younger's retirement; Edith Hooker, who since the fall of 1933 had been the hub on which the wheel of repeal had revolved; whose indomitable courage was the banner under which we so gladly served, and whose sympathetic understanding can be counted on in any situation; Emma Guffey Miller, whose quiet resourcefulness had made possible the necessary contacts at just the opportune moment, and whose voice had been raised without ceasing in defense of women's right to economic freedom; Senator Hiram Bingham, of Connecticut, who had so gallantly lead the fight in 1932

SECTION 213 REPEALED

The signature of President Franklin D. Roosevelt appended Monday, July 26 to H. R. 3408, known as the Celler bill, sponsored in the House by Representative Celler, of New York, and in the Senate by Senator McKellar, of Tennessee, removed from the statute books Section 213 of the National Economy Act, which read:

"In any reduction of personnel in any branch or service of the United States Government or the District of Columbia, married persons (living with husband or wife), employed in the class to be reduced shall be dismissed before any other persons employed in such class are dismissed, if such husband or wife is also in the service of the United States or the District of Columbia."

After action by the House of Representatives on July 8, the measure was unanimously passed by the Senate on July 22.

An intensive campaign for repeal was led by the Government Workers Council, National Woman's Party, which a number of years ago was organized chiefly through the efforts of Laura Berrien of the National Council, Woman's Party. Throughout the 213 campaign the Government Workers Council was headed by the capable Edwina Avery, lawyer and author of "And So The Bill Passed," herewith presented.

Through the efforts of this Council many other national organizations were enlisted in the campaign, which has just ended in complete triumph.

against passage of the original Section 213; Senator Kenneth McKellar, of Tennessee, who had immediately on passage introduced a Concurrent Resolution for repeal, which was defeated, and who sponsored passage of the repeal bill in the Senate; Claude Babcock, of the American Federation of Government Employees; Mrs. Harris T. Baldwin of the League of Women Voters; Lena Madesin Phillips and Gelene MacDonald Bowman, of the National Business and Professional Women; Mary Dewson, who had sounded the clarion call for repeal to the Democratic party at its national convention; and the hundreds of others, each of whom had contributed in his or her personal way to making this day possible.

And then for a moment her thoughts rested on the men and women, members of the House of Representatives, who were this day to do battle for the cause these others had deemed just; who were to be the means by which these inarticulate thousands of small salaried people could at last find voice to present the true facts about the inequities and injustice of Section 213. Grateful thanks went out from her heart to each and the wish that, armed with the breastplate of truth and girded with the knowledge of the righteousness of their cause, they would bring their efforts that day to a triumphant conclusion.

Her thoughts then turned to the small group of women who had worked so closely with her during the years; whose unswerving devotion to the principle of economic freedom for women had become the consuming passion of their lives. But even as she started to call the roster of their names the first arrivals, Kathryn Withrow, who had come down from New York City for the day, and Gertrude Evans, stepped out of the elevator. Because of Kathryn, we were all to be Representative John J. O'Connor's guests in the members' gallery. This was most fortunate for us as Boy Scouts overflowed all the other galleries.

The next elevator brought Grace Brewer, Lydia Beehler, Eula Clute, Charlotte Bailey, Florence Heath, and Helen Forbes. How one's heart warmed at the sight of them and the thought of Grace Cochrane who would join us later in the day; of Abbie Owen, Lillian Neunam, Ida Als, Emelie Neunam, Edith Forester, Annette McClellan, Hilda Weinerth and all the others who had helped so faithfully, but who were not able to be with us this morning. Grace and Florence—how grateful the writer is for those two. Never deviating, always with faces set to the goal. Others of us have been forced by circumstances to divide our time and thought. Some have worked for a time and then dropped out entirely. Some have contributed of their money and time. Others who joined the group later have been just as constant since their coming, but these two were among the charter members and alone have followed only the one path; theirs alone the straight hewing to the line of one purpose—that of repeal of Section 213.

The next elevator brought Vera Johnson, who has headed so brilliantly the Congressional work since Helen Forbes had to give it up at the advent of the twins; Lois Babcock, who has served us so well since January in Harriet Sheppard's place as Executive Secretary; May Gross, whose fertile brain can conceive ideas faster than the others can carry them out and who can always find time to do all the things that no one else will do; and finally Page Kirk, through whose quiet, tireless efforts the teachers of the nation have united to combat the terrific onslaughts delivered continuously on their citadel of freedom.

As we passed into the gallery the thought came of that other group of women who years previously from that same gallery had listened tensely to Woodrow Wilson address a joint session of Congress and had posed the question to the President: "What are you going to do, Mr. President, about women's right to vote?" We, who were to sit so tensely in those seats this Thursday had had that right to vote for about eighteen years. How well we and the other women of America had learned to use that right would be demonstrated that day when the vote would be recorded on the question we were posing, "What are you going to do about women's right to economic freedom?"

At a few minutes after 12:00 o'clock Judge Smith, of Virginia, a member of the Rules Committee, arose and addressed the House as follows: "Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules I call up House Resolution 260 and ask for its immediate consideration."

Seated at the majority table with Judge Smith was Congressman Robert Ramspeck, of Georgia, who, as Chairman of the Civil Service Committee, was to speak for the rule and then have charge of the debate on the bill if the rule was voted by the House. Congressman Emanuel Celler, of New York, sponsor of the repeal bill, was seated at Judge Smith's left. At the minority table were Congressman Taylor, of Tennessee, member of the Rules Committee, who was to lead the opposition to the granting of the rule, and Congresswoman Edith Norse Rodgers, ranking minority member of the Civil Service Committee, who was to control the time for the minority if and when the rule was granted.

After the Clerk had read the resolution (given at the beginning of this article), Judge Smith said, "Mr. Speaker, I yield 30 minutes to the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. Taylor) and yield myself 5 minutes." He then proceeded in clear, concise, and well-chosen words to set forth the reasons why the House should grant the rule for special consideration of the repeal measure.

And so the lines of battle were drawn, with Judge Smith, Mrs. O'Day, of New York; Mrs. Rodgers, of Massachusetts; Mr. Boileau, of Wisconsin; Mrs. Honeyman, of Oregon, and Mr. Rampspeck ably representing the case for the proponents, and Mr. Taylor and Mr. Mitchell, also of Tennessee, presenting the opposition. Mr. Taylor stated emphatically that Section 213 was not a discrimination against women, but offered no proof to refute the mass of data setting forth such discrimination. And while Section 213 really cannot by any stretch of the imagination be said to reach nepotism which involves favoritism shown to relatives in the line of patronage, disbursements, conferring of favors, etc., Mr. Taylor insisted that the reason he was so hearitly in favor of continuing Section 213 was because he was opposed to nepotism. This same fallacious argument was used again and again by the opponents, including Mr. Cochran, who surely must have known that they were introducing irrelevant matter into the discussion. In fact Mr. Mitchell spent the entire time allotted him in opposition to the rule in discussing this subject.

Mr. Ramspeck had the floor in the final minutes of debate on the granting of the rule and closed it by saying, "In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, I may say that there is no opposition to the rule. The only people I know who are opposed to the bill want to fight it out on its merits. Therefore, let us adopt the rule and go into the matter, and in the debate on the bill I shall be pleased to answer insofar as I can all the questions asked."

Judge Smith then moved the previous question on

the resolution, and on a division (demanded by Mr. McFarlane, of Texas) there were 95 ayes and 6 nays, and so the resolution was agreed to.

Mr. Ramspeck and Mrs. Rodgers then took charge of the debate on the bill. Mr. Ramspeck immediately moved that the House resolve itself into the Committee of the Whole. This motion having been agreed to, he proceeded to allot 10 minutes to Mr. Cochran, of Missouri. That gentleman's opening remarks are of interest to all the women of this country, but especially so to those whose votes put him in Congress. He said, "Mr. Chairman, I happen to be the villain in this drama. I am the one who conceived the thought which resulted in the adoption of Section 213 of the Economy Act. Do not blame former President Hoover, blame me. I was willing to take the blame then and I am willing to take it now." And then he proceeded to threaten with defeat any member who had the courage to vote for the bill.

The sentiment of the House as to the forcefulness of such a threat is best expressed in the words of two members who spoke directly to that point. Mrs. Rodgers said, "But does it not seem to be a matter of justice, and not a matter of whether we come back to Congress or not?" Mr. Dewey Short, of Missouri, said, "The gentleman from Missouri (Mr. Cochran) has appealed to the Members of the House to vote against this bill because it will benefit them in a political way back home. The gentleman attributes his increased majority to the fact that he supported section 213, and does not discuss the merits of the measure itself."

Among those who spoke for the bill besides Mr. Ramspeck, Mrs. Rodgers and Mr. Celler, were Mr. Dewey Short, of Missouri; Mr. Millard, of New York; Mrs. Jenckes, of Indiana; Mr. Rees, of Kansas; Mr. Bigelow, of Ohio; Mr. Maas, of Minnesota; Mr. Pearson, of Tennessee; Mr. Murdock, of Arizona; Mrs. Norton, of New Jersey, and Mr. Cole, of Maryland.

Readers of EQUAL RIGHTS will be interested in statements made by Mr. Bigelow, of Ohio, and Mr. Murdock, of Arizona. The former said, "Mr. Chairman, I feel it is an honor if only for 2 minutes to stand up in this House and enroll myself with the women of the world in their centuries old struggle for equality of rights for women."

Mr. Murdock, in endorsing a statement made by Mrs. Rodgers, said, "She might, with due propriety, I think, have paid respect to her sex and also mentioned that this is a matter of equality of sex as well. It is really a matter of equal rights as my colleague from Ohio just pointed out."

And so the time for debate on the bill having expired, the bill was read for amendment under the 5-minute rule. Under this rule Mr. Cochran offered the following substitute for the Civil Service Committee amendment which had contained the $4,000 salary limitation.

> That section 213 of the act of June 30, 1932 (47 Stat. 406), is hereby amended to read as follows:
>
> "In any reduction of personnel in any branch or service of the United States Government or the District of Columbia, married persons (living with husband or wife) employed in the class to be reduced shall be dismissed before any other persons employed in such class are dismissed, if such husband or wife is also in the service of the United States or the District of Columbia. In the appointment of persons to the classified civil service, no person shall be eligible for appointment if such person's husband or wife is employed by the United States Government or the District of Columbia."

In explaining his amendment, Mr. Cochran stated: "Mr. Chairman, the purpose of my amendment is to provide that not only the classified service will be affected by the so-called married women's clause but that all Government agencies and the government of the District of Columbia shall likewise be affected. It simply spreads out the wings and takes in all, not only in Washington but in the field service."

Mr. Nichols, of Oklahoma; Mr. Faddis and Mr. Moser, of Pennsylvania; Mr. McFarlane, of Texas, and Mr. Beverly M. Vincent, of Kentucky, spoke in favor of this amendment.

Mr. Ramspeck, Mr. Celler, Mr. Boileau, Mr. Harlan, of Ohio, and Mrs. Jenckes spoke in opposition.

The question was then taken on the Cochran amendment, and on a division there were 84 yeas and 92 nays. Mr. Cochran immediately demanded tellers, and the Chair appointed Mr. Cochran and Mr. Ramspeck. The Committee again divided and the tellers reported 110 yeas and 106 nays, and so the Cochran substitute for the Civil Service Committee amendment was agreed to and was reported back by the Committee of the Whole to the House for action.

Upon the question being put on the issue as between the bill as originally introduced and the bill as amended by the Cochran substitute, in a division, there were 123 yeas, and 115 nays. Mr. Ramspeck immediately demanded the yeas and nays and upon the question being taken again there were 138 yeas, and 203 nays, 90 not voting, and so the amendment was rejected.

The question then being put on the bill as originally introduced by Mr. Celler, the poll was taken, and there were 205 yeas, 128 nays, 98 not voting.

AND SO THE BILL WAS PASSED at a few minutes after five o'clock.

I wonder if any of you realize just how important July 8, 1937, was to women. The House passed overwhelmingly the repeal of Section 213, yes—but something of much greater significance and far-reaching importance than that took place that day. For the first time in the history of our country, the women members of Congress worked side by side for legislation affecting women, disregarding party lines. They demonstrated how splendid women working together for women can be.

I wish there were space enough to tell you of the general rejoicing which started immediately when the realization of our victory came home to us, and which gained in momentum as the hours passed; of the pride we felt in the masterful handling by Edith Norse Rodgers of her part of the work and in Mrs. Rodgers, Mrs. O'Day, Mrs. Jenckes, Mrs. Honeyman, and Mrs. Norton as we noted their splendid sincerity, their clearness of argument and quickness of repartee. I should like also to tell you of the congratulations and thanks we hastened to convey to those loyal men and women who had won the day for us; of the dinner we held in celebration during which very little food was eaten but a great many telegrams were written and sent. Each of you must do your share of thanking, especially to Mr. Ramspeck, Mr. Celler, Judge Smith, and the women members of Congress, Senator McKellar and the others.

Senator McKellar accepted the House bill in place of the one he introduced in the Senate. The Senate Civil Service Committee met and reported H. R. 3408 favorably to the Senate; the Senate acted favorably and Section 213 is only an unpleasant memory.

Business and Professional Women for Equal Rights

BIENNIAL CONVENTION IN ATLANTIC CITY ADDS 65,000 WOMEN TO CAMPAIGN FOR COMPLETE EQUALITY WITH MEN

TREMENDOUS impetus was given the campaign for the proposed Equal Rights Amendment to the Constitution of the United States now before Congress, when on Friday, July 23, the National Federation of Business and Professional Women's Clubs in biennial convention assembled in Atlantic City, N. J., unanimously voted approval of the measure.

By so doing the Federation with its 65,000 members representing every state in the Union, joined hands with the National Women's Party, the National Association of Women Lawyers, the American Federation of Soroptimists, American Alliance of Civil Service Women, National Women's Real Estate Association, Association of American Women Dentists, National Women's Osteopathic Association, Medical Women's National Association, Pilot International and more than 100 state and local groups of women in pressing the demand for equal rights under law.

Amid a scene of dramatic intensity following rejection of the Woman's Charter, Lena Madesin Phillips, president of the International Federation of Business and Professional Women's Clubs and past president of the National Federation, arose in the rear of the Convention Hall and asked for recognition for the purpose of offering a resolution reading:

"Whereas in response to a request from fifteen Governments, the League of Nations has placed on its agenda for the September Assembly of this year a proposal to incorporate in the League Covenant an Amendment for equality of rights for men and women, reading:

> " 'The Members of the League undertake that in their respective countries the right to vote shall not be denied or abridge on the ground of sex.
>
> " 'The Members of the League undertake that in their respective countries there shall be no distinction based on sex in their law and practice regarding nationality.
>
> " 'The Members of the League undertake that in their respective countries men and women shall have equal rights in all other fields.
>
> " 'The Members of the League undertake that there shall be both men and women, with full voting powers, in all delegations to the Council and Assembly of the League and to all Conferences under the auspices of the League.'
>
> *"Be It Resolved,* That the National Federation of Business and Professional Women's Clubs express its approval of the above proposal and its appreciation of the forward-looking stand of the fifteen Governments which have brought this important and vital subject before the League."

Charles Ormond Williams, president, presiding, ruled the resolution out of order under the rules of the Convention which stipulated that resolutions must be submitted to the resolutions committee six months previous to the Convention. Miss Phillips stated that she had heard no report of a resolutions committee and had been under the impression that there had been none. It had been stated, she said, that only courtesy resolutions had been contemplated.

Immediately there came from the floor a motion for a waiver of the rules, which carried, and the parliamentarian, Mrs. Ben Lowenstein, ruled Miss Phillips' motion in order. By an overwhelming vote the Convention then adopted the resolution approving the proposed equality amendments to the League of Nations Covenant.

Immediately Gertrude Mallory of Los Angeles, Calif., advanced to the rostrum requesting recognition for the purpose of making a motion. The presiding officer expressed the opinion that she was out of order. The parliamentarian again upheld a waiver of the rules and Miss Mallory said: "Madame President, Gertrude Mallory, delegate from California, and legislative chairman of the Business and Professional Women's Club of Los Angeles: I want to follow what Miss Phillips has just said by moving that the National Federation of Business and Professional Women's Clubs, Inc., express its approval of the proposal now before *our own* Congress known as the Equal Rights Amendment."

Miss Mallory, who is librarian at Franklin High School in Los Angeles, has for six years been a member of the legislative commission and for two years chairman of the National Education Association Equal Opportunity Committee. She also is on the board of directors of the Business and Professional Women's Council of Los Angeles.

Instantly Mrs. W. P. Ambrose, legislative chairman of the Maryland Federation, seconded the motion and stated that the Maryland Federation was on record in favor of the Amendment and considered it an emergency measure.

Mrs. Percil Stephenson, president of the Minnesota Federation, a member of the board of directors of the National Federation and a member of the Woman's Charter Committee, said:

"I speak in favor of the motion to adopt the Lucretia Mott Amendment because of the emergency we are facing. The International Labor Office has adopted ten treaties, four of which apply to working women. If our Congress ratifies them, women of this country will be regulated by them and despite anything we might do to protect our interests in this country, we would be restricted by these treaties—not for one year—but for eleven years. This is a serious situation and should make every working woman realize how grave is the need to have the Constitution of the United States extend its provisions to women. We cannot wait for another two years to take action. The need for action is *now.*"

Mrs. Olivia Johnson, past president of the Minnesota Federation and a past president of Zonta International and state legislative chairman for the Minnesota Federation, said that the University of Minnesota during the past year had offered a special course to women, which had included the "status of women." She said that women attending the classes, which were taught by professors of note, were told that women had no rights under the law save the right to vote. She expressed the opinion that it was imperative that women act *at once* for passage of the Equal Rights Amendment.

Mrs. Estelle Bjerg, president of the Arizona Federation, pleaded for endorsement of the amendment. "Arizona women have just had protective legislation thrust upon them," she said. "We cried everywhere for help and there was none. Unless there is an Equal Rights Amendment in the Constitution of the United States, you in other states will find yourselves crying for help and there will be no help. Arizon appeals to you to

function for the purpose for which we as business women banded together. We need the Equal Rights Amendment," she said.

Mrs. Bjerg was followed by Endora Ramsey Richardson, of Virginia, author of "The Influence of Men Incurable," and for several years a field representative of the National Federation, who spoke for the amendment, urging favorable action on the motion. Mrs. Richardson, in her article entitled "American Women Must Clear Their Thinking," appearing in Equal Rights of April 1, said: "If American women do not clear their thinking with regard to the whole question of equality of opportunity, we stand in danger of losing the gains that have been made and of finding ourselves in the position occupied now by the women of Central Europe."

Mary Essarey, lawyer and vice-president of the Florida Federation, spoke for Florida.

Marjorie Shuler, of New York, a member of the Federation National Board, and seated on the platform, arose and said: "I have been tardy in arriving at this viewpoint, but I am opposed to protective legislation and I hope this motion will pass."

Mrs. Myra Blakeslee, of East Orange, N. J., past president of the New Jersey Federation, which also was on record for the Amendment, said: "Times have changed and we shall lack courage if we do not face the issue now."

Scores of others were on their feet awaiting recognition when a demand was made for the vote. The voice of the entire convention was raised in one resounding "aye," and not a single "no" was recorded to mar the 100% stand of business and professional women of the country in favor of complete equality with men under the law.

Leading up to the climaxing events of the session, for which no provision had been made and which came as the result of overwhelming sentiment of the Convention for complete equality as opposed to protection, there was a discussion of the proposed Woman's Charter, which had been placed on the Convention program for action.

Dorothy Kenyon, First Deputy Commissioner of Licenses, New York City, and Mary van Kleeck, Director of Industrial Studies, Russell Sage Foundation, New York, spoke in favor of the Charter, pleading for unity and for protective laws where "a special exploitation of women exists."

Anita Pollitzer, Vice-Chairman and Congressional Secretary, National Woman's Party, and Burnita Shelton Matthews, member of the National Council, National Woman's Party, a member of the Committee of Experts of the International Labor Office and a member of the Research Committee of the Inter American Commission of Women, opposed protective legislation and pointed to the Equal Rights Amendment as the safeguard women need. "If you believe that paid employment is the primary prerogative of men, and if you believe that women should live and work under restrictions, then accept the charter," Mrs. Matthews told the Convention.

"You can have special protection or you can have equality," said Miss Pollitzer," but you can't have both. Passage of the Equal Rights Amendment would place you once and for all on a par with men—why not vote for it?"

Applause greeting the speakers left no doubt as to the attitude of the 1,500 delegates assembled.

Following the speeches Mary Stewart, of California, chairman of the Federation committee on the charter, presented the committee's recommendation for adverse action on the charter. The report read as follows:

The Board of Directors recommends to the Convention that:

I. The Woman's Charter be *not* endorsed,

a. because reports received at the national office show that after wide dissemination of full and impartial information about the charter and considerable discussion in many local and state organizations, no club or state federation has recommended its endorsement, and that many states have rejected it by vote in convention;

b. and because it is our judgment that the Charter carries several controversial and contradictory issues of vital concern to Federation policy and to the welfare of women and to society in general which cannot be covered intelligently and effectively under a single comprehensive statement of faith and purpose like the Charter, but which should be defined and discussed seriatim and endorsed or rejected individually after full consideration.

II. It be the policy of the Federation to oppose any legislation designed to protect women only, since we believe sound legislation should be based on the nature of the work and not on the sex of the worker.

The report was immediately accepted amid cheers of the delegates.

The text of the rejected Charter, which advocated equality and at the same time restriction, follows:

Women shall have full political and civil rights; full opportunity for education; full opportunity for employment according to their individual abilities, with safeguards against physically harmful conditions of employment and economic exploitation; they shall receive compensation, without discrimination because of sex. They shall be assured security of livelihood, including the safeguarding of motherhood. The provisions necessary for the establishment of these standards shall be guaranteed by Government, which shall insure also the right of united action toward the attainment of these aims.

Where special exploitation of women workers exists, such as low wages which provide less than the living standards attainable, unhealthful working conditions, or long hours or work which result in physical exhaustion and denial of the right to leisure, such conditions shall be corrected through social and labor legislation, which the world's experience shows to be necessary.

The entire proceeding with which the Convention came to a close was dramatic and unprecedented. A storm of applause had greeted the announcement that Congress had repealed Section 213 of the National Economy Act. The fight, led by the Government Workers Council, National Woman's Party, and joined in by women's organizations throughout the nation, had triumphed.

A trumpeter and accordionist playing "Pack all your troubles in your old kit bag and smile, smile, smile" proceeded down the aisle followed by a delegate with a placard raised aloft and bearing the inscription, "Goodbye, Section 213." Another bore the inscription, "Hurrah for McKellar and Celler," members of Congress sponsoring the repeal measure. Joining in the procession and carrying their state banners, the delegates paraded down the Atlantic City famous boardwalk. Charl O. Williams, the retiring president, and Earlene White, the new president, in a wheel chair

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Mrs. John Jay White

Grace Hoffman White (Mrs. John Jay White, of New York City and Connecticut), a member of the National Council, National Woman's Party, and one of the most devoted members of the organization, passed away at her home at Westport, Conn., Saturday, July 17.

The Christian Science service held in Woodlawn Cemetery chapel at noon on July 20 was attended by Mrs. Nina E. Allender, Elsie Hill and Alice Paul on behalf of the National Council, Woman's Party, and by the following members of the Connecticut branch of the Party: Mrs. Howard Heath, Mrs. Claire M. Sennie, Mrs. Charles Cutler, of Westport, Conn., and Elsie Hill Leavitt, of Ridgefield, Conn.

When the National Woman's Party was organized in 1913, she became a member and has since that time been prominent in the national and international program for the advancement of women.

As a member of the International Relations Committee of the National Woman's Party, she was one of the Woman's Party delegates to the meeting of the Governing Body of the International Labor Organization in Geneva this past year, where she helped to secure the adoption of a resolution from the I. L. O. authorizing the world wide investigation of the status of women in relation to equality in industry, which study is now being conducted by the League of Nations.

It was Mrs. White who designed the historic purple, white and gold banners of the National Woman's Party. She chose the colors which the organization has used throughout the suffrage and equal rights campaigns.

She was one of the many prominent women who took part in picketing the White House for woman suffrage, and she carried the Woman's Party banner in many processions.

As a leader of the National Woman's Party she was active in the campaign for the adoption of the Suffrage Amendment to the National Constitution, and as a member of the National Board and Connecticut State Chairman she has been active in the work for the adoption of the Equal Rights Amendment now before Congress.

The world-wide committee for peace which later developed into the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom was founded at the home of Mrs. White in Washington. She was an active member of the Women's International League and on its National Board for many years, attending many international conventions, and recently was New York State chairman of this organization.

Mrs. White was born in Africa where her father, an Episcopal clergyman from Philadelphia was a Missionary. Her mother who worked with him in the missionary field established and headed a hospital for the natives.

Mrs. White traveled widely. She was the author of several books of poems and was prominent in various poetry societies.

The Woman's Party is grieved over the passing of a true friend and co-worker.

In Memoriam

The National Woman's Party joins with the nation in a tribute to Senator Joseph T. Robinson, who was always warm in his support of women's effort for a better place of leadership in the country.

Lola Maverick Lloyd in Europe Continuing Work for Equality

Lola Maverick Lloyd, chairman of the International Relations Committee, National Woman's Party, sailed July 9 on the Ile de France for France. In Paris she expected to join Abbey Scott Baker, also a member of the committee, and proceed to Czecho-Slovakia to attend the convention of the W. I. L. on July 25.

A resolution for endorsement of the International equality program in Geneva was scheduled for discussion. A resolution for endorsement was circulated to all national branches of the W. I. L., in the name of Mrs. Lloyd and Madeline Doty, both members of the Woman's Party, and of Madame Eugenie Meller, of Hungary, president of the Hungarian Feminist organization. Mrs. Lloyd was scheduled to speak.

From Czecho-Slovakia Mrs. Lloyd goes to Paris for the International Peace Congress, at which she will again present the equality program.

From Paris she will go to Geneva to work with the Woman's Consultative Committee of the League of Nations in preparation for the September Assembly of the League, when the proposed equality amendments to the League Covenant will be discussed.

Seeing Mrs. Lloyd off at the boat in New York were her daughter, Jessie Lloyd O'Connor, prominent in the Labor movement in the United States; Rosika Schwimmer, of Hungary, one of the founders of the feminist movement in her country and for years prominent in the feminist movement in Europe, and Alice Paul on behalf of the National Council, National Woman's Party.

Business and Professional Women for Equal Rights

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propelled by Mrs. Gelene MacDonald, a former president, led the procession.

The biennial Convention of the National Federation of Business and Professional Women was by no means a routine session. Fifteen hundred intelligent business women of the United States representing 65,000 women, met for the purpose of taking action on matters affecting their civil and economic status and they were determined to do something about it. The revolt against restrictive laws for women only and the overwhelming sentiment for equality promise interesting development in the campaign for the Equal Rights Amendment when the women attending the Atlantic City Convention return to their respective states.

Equality marches on!

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